Team emerge winners despite the odds

NSC take on UPNM with just 10 players

G. ARAVIND

National sports council (NSC), despite being reduced to 10 men, scored a 2-1 win over Universiti Pertahanan National Malaysia (UPNM) in a first round match of the Kuala Lumpur FA Cup competition at the NSC ground in Bukit Jalil recently.

NSC’s Mohd Ezanee Mohd Zainal Abidin was given the marching orders in the 69th minute for a second yellow card offence. He was earlier shown the yellow card in the 17th minute.

The score was 1-1. NSC had taken a one goal lead courtesy of an own goal from corner kick which deflected off UPNM’s Mohd Azhar Alang Kamaruddin in the seventh minute. However UPNM equalised in the 43rd minute through Mohd Fareez Mustafa, who scored after receiving a pass from Mohd Rasume Mohd Zube.

With Mohd Ezanee out in the 69th minute, the match was heading towards a penalty shootout. But Abdul Rashid Yaakub came to NSC’s rescue when he scored the winner in the 80th minute.

From a corner kick, Abdul Rashid rose the highest and headed past the UPNM defence. UPNM coach Saadun Mohamed had reasons to be disappointed with the result.

“Our players played well but we were let down by their inability to convert the chances that came into goals,” said Saadun.

NSC coach Mohd Helmi Khusaini Abdul Aziz was delighted with the results and praised the perseverance of his players.

“We were with only 10 men during the last 10 minutes of the game. We also had ample chances in the first half. The strikers hit the bar twice.

“I thought the game was lost when Mohd Ezanee was sent off but our players stayed focused and got the decisive goal which takes us to the next round,” said Mohd Helmi.

Going all out: Nazrin Mohamad Nadzri attempting to save a ball headed by NSC’s Norazmi Ramli during the match.